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A faunistic contribution to the knowledge of Bostrichidae (Coleoptera) in the Dominican Republic

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Keywords:

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Bostrichidae;
Faunistics;
new records;
Dominican Republic;
Hispaniola.

Abstract. – New faunistic data on eight species of Bostrichidae from the Dominican Republic are presented. Three species are recorded from the country for the first time: *Heterobostrychus aequalis* (Waterhouse, 1884), *Melalgus jamaicensis* (Lesne, 1906) and *Sinoxylon unidentatum* (Fabricius, 1801). Additional locality records are provided for *Dendrobiella sericea* (Mulsant & Wachanru, 1852), *Tetrapriocera longicornis* (Olivier, 1790), *Xylobius parilis* Lesne, 1901, *Xylomeira tridens* (Fabricius, 1792) and *Melalgus femoralis* (Fabricius, 1792).

Hodeček J., Zahradník P., Pirkl J. & Háva J., 2026. – A faunistic contribution to the knowledge of Bostrichidae (Coleoptera) in the Dominican Republic. *Faunitaxys*, 14(38): 1 – 5.

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Introduction

Bostrichidae Latreille, 1802 is a cosmopolitan family of predominantly xylophagous beetles, many of which develop in dry wood, bamboo, seeds or stored products. Several species are of economic importance because they may damage timber, wood products and stored commodities (Borowski & Węgrzynowicz, 2012). In the West Indies, however, the fauna remains unevenly documented and additional faunistic data are still needed.

Earlier syntheses of the Hispaniolan arthropod fauna were provided by Perez-Gelabert (2008, 2020). For Bostrichidae specifically, Perez-Gelabert (2020) listed 14 species from the Dominican Republic, while the recent world catalogue by Zahradník & Háva (2025) recognized 17 species from the country. The present paper provides new faunistic data for eight species collected during recent expeditions in the Dominican Republic, including three species recorded from the country for the first time. A comparable situation was documented in Paraguay, where a single collecting effort yielded five new country records of Bostrichidae, further illustrating how incompletely known the faunas of many Neotropical countries still are (Liu et al. 2022).

Material and Methods

In 2021, 2023 and 2024, Jiří Hodeček organised entomological expeditions in the Dominican Republic and, together with Jiří Pirkl, collected specimens of various insect groups, including Coleoptera, Dermaptera, Zoraptera, Ephemeroptera, Auchenorrhyncha and selected groups of Lepidoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera. These expeditions formed part of a broader biodiversity project aimed at documenting the diversity and habitat preferences of selected insect groups, describing new taxa, and providing new faunistic records for the Dominican Republic. Partial results of this project have been published previously (Háva & Hodeček, 2023; Lingafelter et al., 2024; Hodecek et al., 2024; Háva & Hodeček, 2025; De Ketelaere & Hodecek, 2025; Mengual et al., 2025; Hodecek & Haxaire, 2025; Barbosa et al., 2025; Laguerre & Hodecek, 2026; Johnson & Hodecek, 2026a, b; Hodecek et al., 2026). Collecting and export permits (VAPB-08862, VAPB-10887 and VAPB-12695) were issued by the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales.

Bostrichid beetles were collected mainly at light using one principal trap equipped with a metal halide lamp and several

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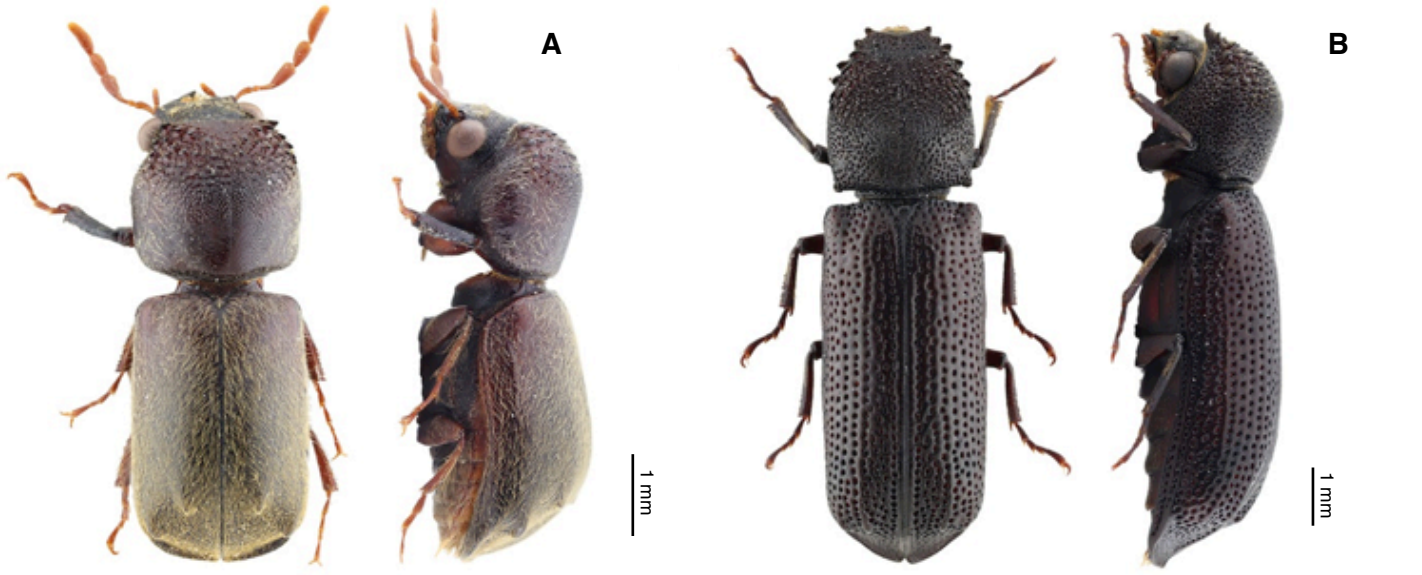

Fig. **1**. **A**. *Dendrobiella sericea* (Mulsant & Wachanru, 1852), dorsal and lateral views. **B**. *Heterobostrychus aequalis* (Waterhouse, 1884), dorsal and lateral views.

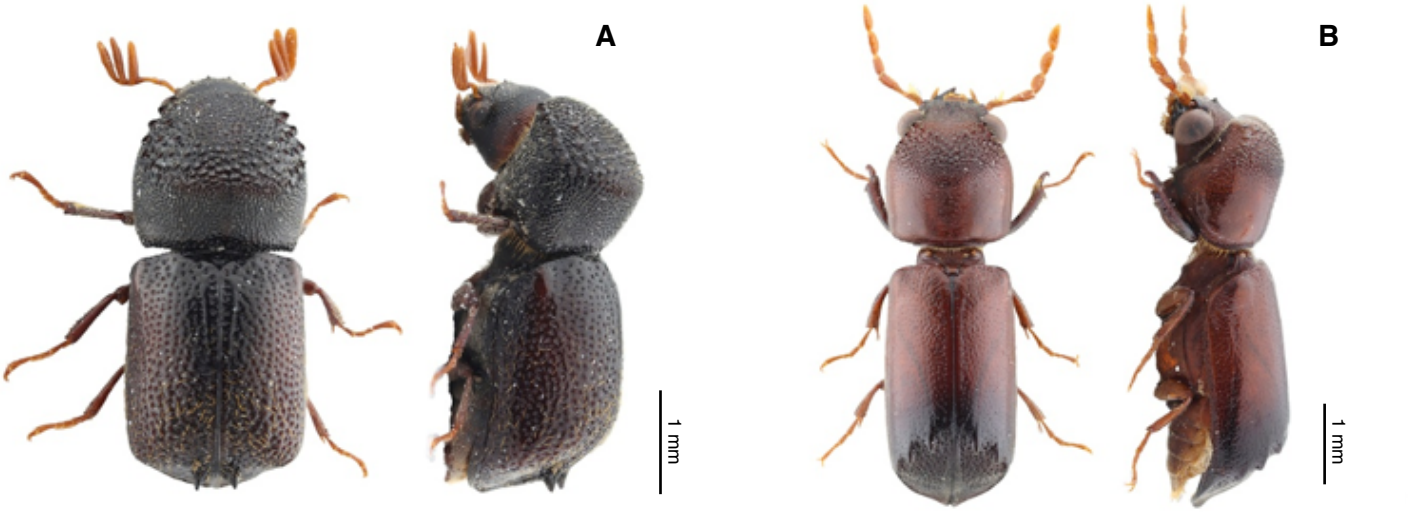

Fig. **2**. **A**. *Sinoxylon unidentatum* (Fabricius, 1801), dorsal and lateral views. **B**. *Tetrapriocera longicornis* (Olivier, 1790), dorsal and lateral views.

smaller traps powered by LED HPL lights; additional specimens were obtained by sweep netting, beating vegetation and hand collecting. The specimens were preserved dry and later studied by the authors.

Systematic arrangement and nomenclature follow Zahradník & Háva (2025).

Material is deposited in the following collections:

JHAC – Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic.

JPPC – Jiří Pirkl, private collection, Chomutov, Czech Republic.

MCSN-VD – Muséum Cantonal des Sciences Naturelles (Département Zoologie), Lausanne, Switzerland.

Results

Perez-Gelabert (2020) listed 14 species of Bostrichidae from the Dominican Republic, whereas Zahradník & Háva (2025) listed 17 species. The present study documents eight species, three of which are new country records: *Heterobostrychus aequalis*, *Melalgus jamaicensis* and *Sinoxylon unidentatum*. With these additions, the number of bostrichid species currently known from the Dominican Republic increases to 20.

Subfamily **Bostrichinae**

Dendrobiella sericea (Mulsant & Wachanru, 1852)

(Fig. 1A)

Material examined

- DR, Cabo Rojo, 17.93757550N, 71.5720492W, 5.7.2021, J. Pirkl leg., 2 spec. (1 MCSN-VD, 1 JHAC);
- DR, Banano, 18.1541939N, 71.7474650W, 16.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 6 spec. (5 MCSN-VD, 1 JHAC);
- DR, Jaragua, 17.7922544N, 71.4607075W, 14.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 2 spec. (JPPC);
- DR, Jaragua, 17.7922544N, 71.4607075W, 2.5.–13.5.2024, J. Pirkl & J. Hodeček leg., 1 spec. (JPPC).

Remarks. – Previously recorded from the Dominican Republic by Perez-Gelabert (2020) and listed in the recent catalogue of Zahradník & Háva (2025); the present paper provides additional locality data.

Heterobostrychus aequalis (Waterhouse, 1884)
NEW RECORD
(Fig. 1B)

Material examined

- DR, Paraíso, 17.9983103N, 71.1631431W, 8.7.2021, J. Pirkl leg., 1 female (MCSN-VD).

Remarks. – The species was reported from the Lesser Antilles by Peck (2016); new for the Dominican Republic.

Sinoxylon unidentatum (Fabricius, 1801)
NEW RECORD
(Fig. 2A)

Material examined

- DR, Punta Cana, 30 m, 18.7293861N, 68.4965983W, 30.4.–15.5.2024, J. Pirkl & J. Hodeček leg., 1 spec. (MCSN-VD).

Remarks. – Cosmopolitan species (Zahradník & Háva 2025); new for the Dominican Republic.

Tetrapriocera longicornis (Olivier, 1790)
(Fig. 2B)

Material examined

- DR, Cabarete, 19.7414803N, 70.4257983W, 20.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (MCSN-VD);
- DR, Paraíso, 17.9983103N, 71.1631431W, 19.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 6 spec. (MCSN-VD);
- DR, Cabo Rojo, 17.93757550N, 71.5720492W, 5.7.2021, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (MCSN-VD);
- DR, Punta Cana, 30 m, 18.7293861N, 68.4965983W, 30.4.–15.5.2024, J. Pirkl & J. Hodeček leg., 3 spec. (JPPC);
- DR, Embalse Presa de Blanco, 18.8836150N, 70.5653297W, 7.5.2024, J. Pirkl & J. Hodeček leg., 1 spec. (JPPC).

Remarks. – Previously recorded from the Dominican Republic by Perez-Gelabert (2020) and listed in the recent catalogue of Zahradník & Háva (2025); the present paper provides additional locality data.

Xylobius parilis Lesne, 1901
(Fig. 3A)

Material examined

- DR, Punta Cana, 18.6070267N, 68.3514314W, 11.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (MCSN-VD).

Remarks. – Previously recorded from the Dominican Republic and listed in the recent catalogue of Zahradník & Háva (2025); the present paper provides first locality data.

Xylomeira tridens (Fabricius, 1792)
(Fig. 3B)

Material examined

- DR, Paraíso, 17.9983103N, 71.1631431W, 8.7.2021, J. Pirkl leg., 6 spec. (5 MCSN-VD, 1 JHAC); same locality, 19.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 3 spec. (MCSN-VD);
- DR, Fruisa, 18.7304842N, 68.4977756W, 12.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (JPPC);
- DR, Jaragua, 17.7922544N, 71.4607075W, 14.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 2 spec. (1 JPPC, 1 JHAC);
- DR, Punta Cana, 30 m, 18.7293861N, 68.4965983W, 30.4.–15.5.2024, J. Pirkl & J. Hodeček leg., 1 spec. (JPPC).

Remarks. – Previously recorded from the Dominican Republic by Perez-Gelabert (2020) and listed in the recent catalogue of Zahradník & Háva (2025); the present paper provides additional locality data.

Subfamily **Polycaoninae**

Melalgus femoralis (Fabricius, 1792)
(Fig. 4A)

Material examined

- DR, Jaragua, 17.7922544N, 71.4607075W, 14.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (MCSN-VD);
- DR, Punta Cana, 18.6070267N, 68.3514314W, 11.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (MCSN-VD);
- DR, Paraíso, 17.9983103N, 71.1631431W, 8.7.2021, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (JHAC);
- DR, Cabo Rojo, 17.93757550N, 71.5720492W, 5.7.2021, J. Pirkl leg., 2 spec. (MCSN-VD);
- DR, Punta Cana, 30 m, 18.7293861N, 68.4965983W, 30.4.–15.5.2024, J. Pirkl & J. Hodeček leg., 2 spec. (JPPC);
- DR, Jaragua, 17.7922544N, 71.4607075W, 2.5.–13.5.2024, J. Pirkl & J. Hodeček leg., 1 spec. (JPPC).

Remarks. – Previously recorded from the Dominican Republic and listed in the recent catalogue of Zahradník & Háva (2025); the present paper provides first locality data.

Melalgus jamaicensis (Lesne, 1906)
NEW RECORD
(Fig. 4B)

Material examined

- DR, Jaragua, 17.7922544N, 71.4607075W, 14.6.2023, J. Pirkl leg., 1 spec. (MCSN-VD).

Remarks. – Previously recorded from Jamaica, the Bahamas, and the Cayman Islands (Borowski 2020); recorded here from the Dominican Republic for the first time.

Discussion

This study adds three new country records of Bostrichidae for the Dominican Republic: *Heterobostrychus aequalis*, *Melalgus jamaicensis*, and *Sinoxylon unidentatum*. Together with the additional locality data for five previously recorded species, these findings increase the known bostrichid fauna of the country to 20 species and further demonstrate that the group remains insufficiently documented on Hispaniola. Additional collecting, especially by light trapping in undersampled habitats and seasons, will likely reveal further species and refine the known distribution of the family in the Dominican Republic.

Acknowledgements

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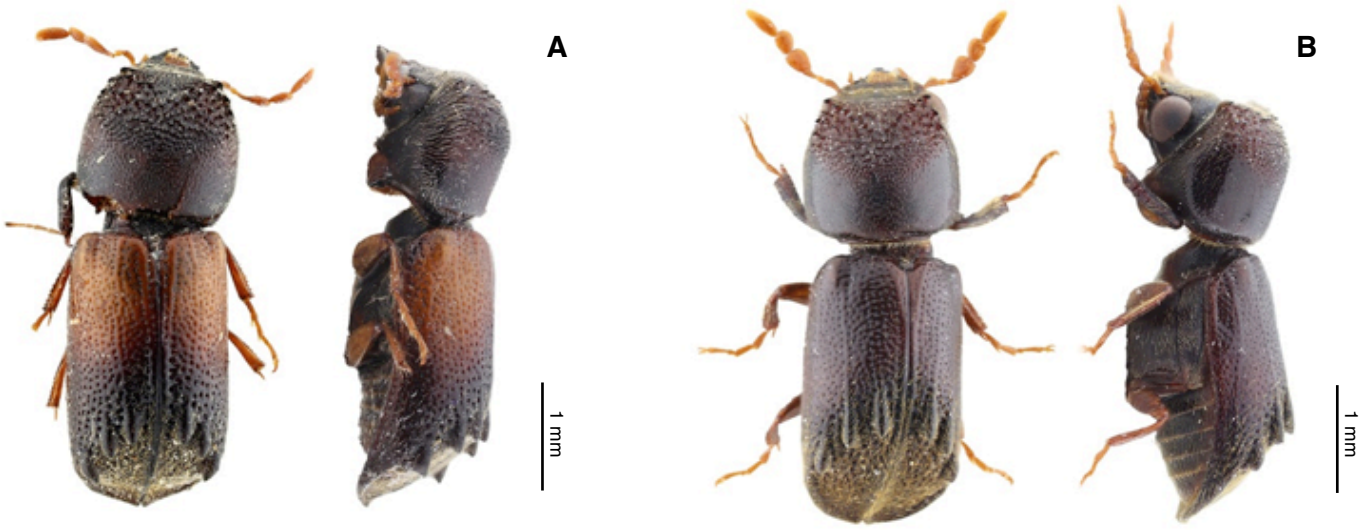

Fig. **3**. **A**. *Xylobius parilis* Lesne, 1901, dorsal and lateral views. **B**. *Xylomeira tridens* (Fabricius, 1792), dorsal and lateral views.

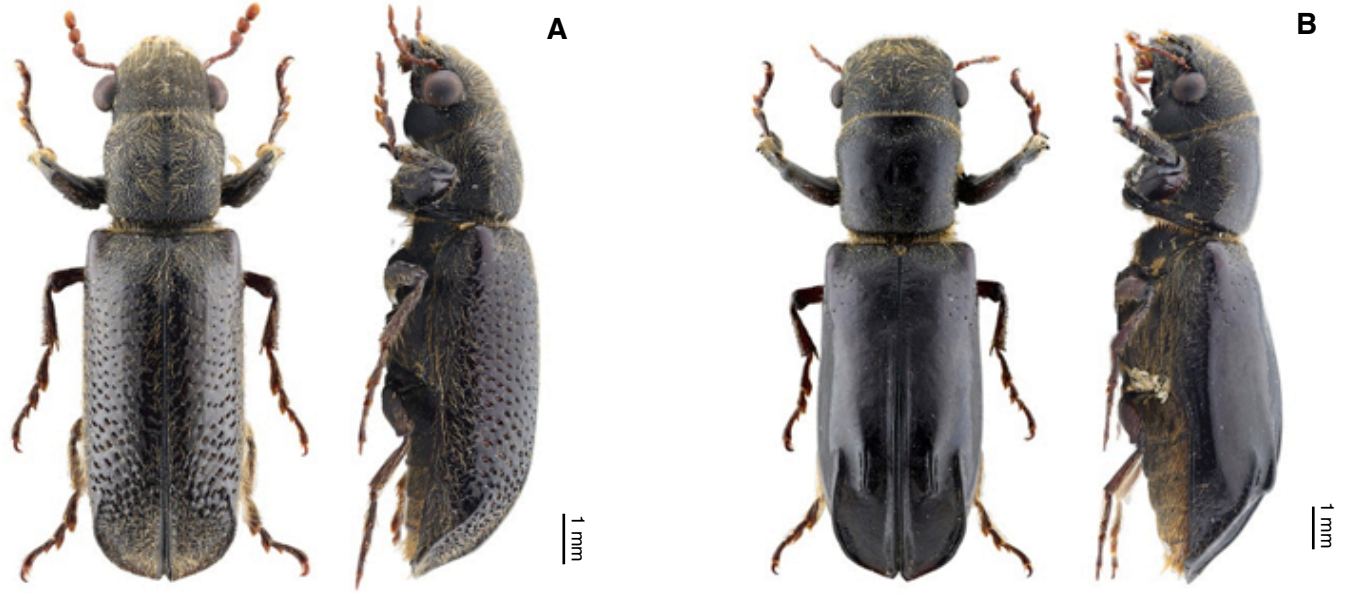

Fig. **4**. **A**. *Melalgus femoralis* (Fabricius, 1792), dorsal and lateral views. **B**. *Melalgus jamaicensis* (Lesne, 1906), dorsal and lateral views.

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Résumé

Hodeček J., Zahradník P., Pirkl J. & Háva J., 2026. – Contribution faunistique à la connaissance des Bostrichidae de République dominicaine (Coleoptera). *Faunitaxys*, 14(38) : 1 – 5.

De nouvelles données faunistiques pour huit espèces de Bostrichidae de la République dominicaine sont présentées. Trois espèces y sont recensées pour la première fois : *Heterobostrychus aequalis* (Waterhouse, 1884), *Melalgus jamaicensis* (Lesne, 1906) et *Sinoxylon unidentatum* (Fabricius, 1801). Des localités supplémentaires sont fournies pour *Dendrobiella sericea* (Mulsant & Wachanru, 1852), *Tetrapriocera longicornis* (Olivier, 1790), *Xylobius parilis* Lesne, 1901, *Xylomeira tridens* (Fabricius, 1792) et *Melalgus femoralis* (Fabricius, 1792).

Mots-clés. – Coléoptères, Bostrichidae, Faunistique, nouvelles mentions, République dominicaine, Hispaniola.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Heterobostrychus aequalis (Waterhouse, 1884).

Crédits:

Jiri Pirkl : Fig. 1-4.

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